

Pending Claims

1.-7. (Cancelled).

8. (Original) An imaging system comprising:

a detector for detecting electromagnetic radiation, wherein said electromagnetic radiation is emitted when target events occur, said target events triggered by reagent deposited on

a specimen plate; and

(pump spray bottle) an atomizer that delivers said reagent to said specimen plate as a spray of atomized liquid.

9. (Original) The imaging system of claim 8 further comprising a

positioner; wherein said positioner moves said specimen plate between a first position in which said specimen plate receives said atomized liquid and a second position in which said detector detects said target events.

10. (Original) The imaging system of claim 8 further comprising an

environmental enclosure, wherein said detector and said atomizer are disposed within said environmental enclosure.

11. (Original) The imaging system of claim 8 wherein said detector

detects visible spectrum radiation.

12. (Original) The imaging system of claim 11 further comprising an

excitation radiation source that delivers excitation radiation to said reagent on said specimen plate.

13. (Original) The imaging system of claim 8 wherein said detector

detects infrared spectrum radiation.

14. (Original) The imaging system of claim 8 further comprising a mask

that is disposed between said specimen plate and said atomizer; said mask defining a plurality of openings through which said atomized liquid passes and is received by said specimen plate.

15. (Original) The imaging system of claim 14 further comprising a controlled voltage source that is electrically connected to said atomizer, said mask and an electrically-conductive sub-plate that is disposed beneath said specimen plate.

16. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
atomizing a reagent;
delivering said atomized reagent to a specimen plate; and
detecting electromagnetic radiation that is emitted when a target event occurs, wherein said target event is triggered by said reagent.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the step of atomizing comprises using ultrasonic vibration to form micro-droplets of said reagent.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the step of delivering comprises passing said atomized reagent through a mask.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein the step of delivering further comprises electrostatically focusing said reagent by applying a potential to said mask, said atomized reagent, and an electrically conductive sub-plate that is disposed beneath said specimen plate.

20. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the step of detecting comprises detecting visible spectrum radiation.

21. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the step of detecting comprises detecting infrared spectrum radiation.

22. (Original) The method of claim 16 further comprising:
positioning said specimen plate in a first position to receive said atomized reagent; and
positioning said specimen plate in a second position to detect said target event.